

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 10, 2015

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| Fisheries under consideration: | Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial salmon Treaty commercial salmon |
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2015 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 21, 2015). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- The 2015 forecast of 73,000 adults to the Columbia River is less than the 2014 return (78,300 adults) and greater (114%) than the 10-year average return of 64,100 adults.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate above Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified as either Group A or Group B fish, depending on length.
- Summer steelhead handled in Columbia River fisheries below Bonneville Dam are considered lower river stock during May-June and upriver stock during July-October.
- A total of 298,800 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year during July through October, which is 89% of the 2005-2014 average of 334,600 fish. Lower river summer steelhead returns have averaged 63,400 fish over the past ten years.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 8 totals 2,580 summer steelhead, which is less than expected (4,500) based on the forecast and 10-year average run timing. The 50% passage date is around June 17 for upriver Skamania stock.

Sockeye

- The 2015 forecast for sockeye is for a very strong return of 394,000 fish to the Columbia River. The forecast includes 106,700 Wenatchee stock, 285,500 Okanogan stock, and 1,800 Snake River stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 8 totals 5,062 sockeye, which is greater than expectations (2,300) based on the forecast and 5-year average run timing, but is similar to recent cumulative counts within 1-2 days of this date. The average 50% passage date is June 27, but has been as late as July 1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-Indian summer season fisheries.
- The Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-Indian and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on a minimum interim escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery and natural origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.
- Based on the preseason forecast and the harvest rate schedule in the MA, a total of 42,000 adult summer Chinook are available for harvest, and are to be shared equally between treaty and non-Indian fisheries (21,000 each).

Non-Indian Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- The non-Indian allocation includes the following fisheries:
 - Ocean fisheries south of Canada.
 - Recreational fisheries from Astoria/Megler Bridge upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
 - Commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5).
 - Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries.
- Based on the preseason forecast and the UCMA, the portion of in-river harvestable fish allocated downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 34%, equating to 5,488 adult fish. For 2015, Commission guidance allocates these fish 30% to commercial and 70% to recreational fisheries.

| 2015 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation | |
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| Preseason Run Size | 73,000 |
| Non-Indian Ocean Harvest | 5,000 |
| Total Abundance (with ocean harvest) | 78,000 |
| Available Treaty Indian Harvest | 21,000 |
| Available Non-Indian Harvest (in-river) | 16,000 |
| Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam | 3,842 |
| <i>Below Bonneville Dam</i> | 3,227 |
| <i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i> | 615 |
| Non-Indian Commercial | 1,646 |

Summer Steelhead

- The non-Indian ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% during January through July. For non-Indian fisheries occurring during May and June below Bonneville Dam, wild steelhead impact rates have averaged less than 0.5%, and are expected to be similar for 2015 fisheries. Treaty Indian fisheries have no specified harvest rate limit on steelhead through July.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-Indian fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries. For 2015, Commission guidance allocates the non-Indian impacts 30% to commercial and 70% to recreational fisheries.

2015 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on preseason forecasts and corresponding impact limits under the MA, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 21,000 adult summer Chinook and 27,580 sockeye. Steelhead harvest is expected to remain within recent year averages.
- Commercial gillnet openings are expected to occur weekly throughout the summer season. Effort is expected to be moderate the first few weeks of the season and decrease as the season progresses. The tribes will utilize a mesh size restriction for the first three periods and may continue mesh size limits if appropriate.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

| <i>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i> | | |
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| Season | 6 AM Tuesday June 16 to 6 PM Friday June 19, 2015 6 AM Monday June 22 to 6 PM Thursday June 25, 2015 6 AM Monday June 29 to 6 PM Thursday July 2, 2015 | (3.5 days) (3.5 days) (3.5 days) |
| Area | Zone 6 | |
| Sanctuaries: | Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not necessary this time of year. | |
| Gear: | Gill nets. 7-inch minimum mesh restriction | |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. | |
| Additional: | 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. | |

- Catch estimates total 11,200 Chinook and 8,900 sockeye for three weekly periods based on an effort of 300-350 nets weekly. Steelhead harvest is normally very low in the beginning of the summer management period.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after these periods.
- Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through the summer season. These fisheries do not require Compact action.
- At least some tribes may open fisheries in the area below Bonneville Dam beginning June 16 consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs between the states and tribes. The season is expected to continue through July 31. The tribes expect to continue this fishery into the fall season. The fall season will likely be set at the first fall Compact scheduled for late July.

| <i>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Platform and Hook and Line Fishery Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i> | |
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| Season | Tuesday June 16 through Friday July 31, 2015 and only on days and at times opened under tribal rules. |
| Area | Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs. |
| Gear: | Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules. |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in this area. Sales of fish is not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. |
| Additional: | 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. |

2015 Non-Indian Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery

- Non-Indian summer Chinook fisheries were discussed with constituents during the North of Falcon (NOF) and Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings occurring in March and April. Summer salmon fisheries are based on the results of these meetings, management agreements, preseason forecasts, and allocation guidelines.
- Summer recreational fisheries are scheduled to be open from June 16 through July 6 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam, and June 16 through July 31 from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. These fisheries are mark-selective for Chinook, allowing the retention of adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook only. The daily bag limit includes two hatchery adult Chinook. In both fisheries, sockeye may also be retained as part of the adult daily salmonid bag limit.

- Staff will monitor the Chinook mark rate and progress of sport fisheries closely and may recommend adjustments to retention regulations and/or season length (below Bonneville Dam) as needed.
- Summer Chinook commercial fisheries utilize large mesh (8-inch minimum) gear to minimize incidental steelhead handle.

| <i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i> | |
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| Season: | 9 PM Wednesday June 17 to 5 AM Thursday June 18, 2015 (8 hours) |
| Area: | Zones 1-5 |
| Sanctuaries: | Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers. |
| Gear: | Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Multiple net rule in place: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 |
| Allowable Sales: | Chinook, sockeye, and shad. |
| Additional: | A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. |

- Effort is expected to be moderate at about 75 deliveries, with a catch expectation of 1,500 Chinook. Sockeye catch is expected to be well within the 1,182 fish allocated to commercial fisheries.
- The recommendation was developed based on discussions with constituents and the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group during the North of Falcon process.

Select Area Fisheries

- The spring season in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough is scheduled to close after June 12.
- Landings have remained strong during the past two weeks with 180–190 Chinook landed per week. Preliminary coded-wire tag analysis indicates the fish being harvested are of Select Area origin.

| Joint Staff Recommendation: 2015 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery | |
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| Season: | Tuesday June 16 – Wednesday June 17 <u>and</u> Thursday June 18 – Friday June 19 Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours) |
| Area: | Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary). |
| Gear: | 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on headline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the headline is allowed. Multiple net rule in place: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited. |
| Additional: | Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. |

- This extension of the spring season will allow access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing area.
- The catch expectation is about 100 spring Chinook total for the two periods.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact is recommended for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday July 1, 2015 to review stock status and to consider additional treaty commercial fisheries.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday July 29, 2015 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).